BLACKALL, W W = Superintendent of Education, C of England, Feb.-March 1919

(049)

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OFFICE:
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION,
CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

SUPERINTENDENT: W. W. BLACKALL, B.A., D.C.L.
ASST. SUPERINTENDENT: S. C. THOMPSON.

Department of Education

(CHURCH OF ENGLAND)

COLONIAL BUILDING, St. John's, Feb. 20th, 1919

The President,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, CANADA.

My Dear Sir:-

I write to you on behalf of my son, Lieut. J. W. F. Blackall, of the Royal Flying Corps, whom I expect home during the next few months. I should like to know on what conditions he can be accepted in the University in September next in the Faculty of Engineering, for what standing he is likely to qualify, and what consideration can be granted him in view of the fact that he has given three of the most precious years of his life to the service of the Empire in her time of trial.

He was educated as a boy in Bishop Feild College - the principal educational institution of the Church of England in Newfoundland, having the standing of a good County Academy. While there he passed the Preliminary

Grade Diploma examination of the Council of Higher Examination three times and the Intermediate Grade Diploma examination once.

In 1908 I sent him to a good public school in Cheltenham, England, where he remained for two years and where he passed in the first year the examination of the University of Oxford for Junior students. In his second year he tried the examination of the University of Cambridge for Senior students, but failed to get the full certificate, He passed a good examination, however, in his mathematical subjects.

I attach hereto a statement of the marks gained in these examinations, excepting for the English examinations, the Universities not publishing the marks.

He returned, then, to Newfoundland and fancied engineering. He was rather young, I thought, for University life and I thought some practical experience with machinery would be valuable training for him. I therefore sought and secured his admission into the fine Machine Shop of the Harmsworth Paper Mills at Grand Falls. He liked the work and with a view of saving money for University work he remained there five years and became a duly qualified journeyman machinist. During this time he continued his studies so far as time at his disposal would permit.

It was then a part of his plan to proceed to College but the call for men for the front became very urgent and he followed his only brother to the war in January, 1916, joining

the flying service.

I enclose his copy of flying training certificate. He had not been long at the front before he was shot down. I have his observer's statement that but for my son's coolness and skill in handling his disabled machine, the two of them would have been dashed to pieces.

He landed - somewhat violently - just inside the front trenches of the German lines and was taken prisoner in May, 1917. For 19 long months he led a miserable existence in a German camp at Clausthal.

During his imprisonment he continued, as circumstances permitted, his studies, giving his time to mechancial drawing, French and German. He was fortunate in having a Belgian comrade in the encampment who took pains to instruct him in French and he engaged a German to teach him his mechanical drawing and German.

A perusal of his examination results will show that he has had a generous education and, of course, his training for the flying corps was good value, as also his five year period in the Machine Shop.

I note that pretty well all Universities are giving the soldier-lads compensating consideration.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. Blackall.

Sup't Education(C. of E)

Council of Higher Education Examinations

Subjects	Preliminary 1905 Per cent	Preliminary 1906 Per cent	Preliminary 1907 Per cent	Intermediate 1908 Per cent
English	40	45	47	52
Arithmetic		48	71	
Geography			38	
Algebra	60			51
Geometry				
Chemistry		47		
General Elementary Science				38
Latin	47	53	82	63
French			62	
French Conversation	54	48		
Greek	56			35
Drawing	54			44
Shorthand		50	90	
Music (piano & singing)		80	75	71

1909. Cambridge University Examination for Junior Students:

Satisfied the examiners in - English, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Religious Knowledge, Geography, French, Mensuration and Surveying, Geometrical Drawing.

1910. Oxford University Examination for Senior Students:

Satisfied the examiners in - Mathematics and English

C O P Y

7th Wing, R. F. C.

Report on an Officer who has undergone a Course of Instruction.

Year: 1917

Period of Course: 28/9/16 to 26/10/16 to 9/4/17

Rank and Name: 2nd Lieut. J. F. W. Blackall

Regiment: 2/1st Newfoundland Regiment

QUALIFICATIONS

Type of Aeroplanes flown and ability in them:

M. F., S. H., De Haviland Fighter. F. E. 2. B. F. E. 2. D.

Good

Cross-country flying: Good

Mechanical knowledge: Average

Qualities as an Officer: Good

Total time in air as pilot: (solos) 21 hours, 20 minutes

Machine most suited to fly: F. E. 2. D.

ANY FURTHER REMARKS

A good steady pilot

Station: Norwich

Date: April 10th, 1917

(sgd) G. E. Todd,
Lieut. Colonel,
Commanding 7th Wing, R. F. C.

March 3rd, 1919

W. W. Blackall, Esq., D.C.L.,
Superintendent of Education,
Colonial Building, St. John's, Newfoundland.

My dear Sir:

I am enclosing an application for admission to the University. Will you please ask your son, or possibly you may do it for him, to fill up this form ?

Our uniform endeavour is to give the utmost advantage to boys who have been overseas in order that they may finish their professional work as quickly as possible. We have found, however, by experience that it is not a favour to have them wader upon work that is beyond their capacity, and we have therefore started a preparatory class for the summer so as to enable students to prepare for their winter's work. The compensation that we can give is not reducing the professional work because we must send out a well equipped engineer or medical man, but trying to fit the returned man into his professional work with as much concession as we can possibly make. One of the important matters in connection with the Faculty of Engineering is that a student should have a good grasp of Mathematics.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.